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U. S. Department of Transportation
Dockets Management Facility, Room PL-401
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590-0001

RE: Docket Number FHWA-2002-11819 -13

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) respectfully submits comment in response to U. S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Docket No. FHWA-2002-11819, entitled "Designation of Dromedary Equipped Truck Tractor-Semitrailers as Specialized Equipment." The CHP opposes the initiative the FHWA has taken under this docket to include specialized equipment, dromedary equipped truck tractor-semitrailer combination vehicles when hauling munitions for the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). California is specifically concerned with the language, "No State shall impose an overall length limitation of less than 75 feet on the combination while in operation." California currently allows combinations up to an overall length of 65 feet to operate on all roads in California while those in excess of 65 feet are restricted to the National Network of highways as described in the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982. The overall length restriction of 65 feet is vital to the safe transportation of commercial vehicles within our state as there are a number of roadways throughout our state that will not safely accommodate a commercial vehicle with an overall length greater than 65 feet.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this very important document. Should you desire further information regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or Captain Andrew Jones, Commercial Vehicle Section, at (916) 445-1865.

Sincerely,

D. O. HELMICK
Commissioner